you please listen to me...(*Interruptions*)...Sir, you please listen to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: What do you mean by saying "No"? You cannot say "No"... (*Interruptions*)...I have got every right to ask a question. The question is very important ...(*Interruptions*)... I walk out in protest. You have no right...(*Interruptions*)...You cannot prevent me even from asking a question. Let me ask my question. She may not answer. But let me ask my question...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have every right decide that your supplementary does not arise out of the main question and I rule it out of order...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: This is not correct...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Question No. 64. Whatever is spoken without my permission will not go on record. Question No. 64. Mr. Kalmadi... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I walk out in protest...(*Interruptions*)...

(*At this stage, the hon. Member left the Chamber.*)

Wastage of Fruits due to lack of Food Processing Facilities and Technical know how

*64. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of fruits are being wasted due to the lack of adequate facilities of processing the same and the lack of technical know-how;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to set up more units both in the public and the private sector; and

(c) whether Government have received any representations for the setting up of food processing units and if so, the action being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

While no authentic information is available, it is estimated that fruits and vegetables valued at Rs. 3,000 crores are wasted every year due to inadequate post harvest handling as well as absence of linkage with the processors and fresh fruits and vegetables market.

Several measures have been taken from time to time by the Government to facilitate setting up of more units for processing fruits and vegetables. Such measures include the liberalisation of the industrial policy through broad-banding, the inclusion of food processing industries in Appendix-I of the Industrial Policy Statement of 1973, the granting of fiscal concessions etc. Consultancy and technical guidance is also provided for the setting up of units.

A provision has been made under the Plan for financial assistance to State Governments/Cooperative Undertakings for setting up fruit and vegetable processing units.

Representations are received from time to time regarding setting up of food processing units. These are examined by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries and appropriate action is taken.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI; Sir, it is necessary that wherever agro-industries are encouraged, fruits and vegetables should be there in full supply. Recently, some small units have come up--they are high-tech units

in Karnataka, the Kisan Plant and, in Andhra, the Wimco Plant for fruits and vegetable processing. But they are having today only about 15 per cent of their capacity utilization which is very sad because on the one hand we want to encourage agro-industries and, on the other hand, we see that they get sick. I would like to know what the plan of the Government is to identify the zones so that industries can go to the particular zones where fruits and vegetables are available and you do not set up units in isolation. So, I would like to know what the Ministry thinks in the matter. On the contrary, in surplus States like Himachal Pradesh, the HPMC has got large quanatities of apple juice concentrate which is lying idle. So, I would like to know what you are going to do and how you are going to plan these things.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, it is a fact that the initial planning has not been thought of properly. If I were to go by the figures which have been given to me, fruit and vegetable production has gone up from 54,274 tonnes in 1970 to 1,97,613 tonnes in 1987 and it has further gone up to 2,15,000 tonnes in 1988 and it has further gone up now. Also, the number of licences which were being given under the Food and Vegetable Order, 1985, has gone up from 1,904 to 3,364. Now, there are certain reasons which we have come to know—we made a study—and one of them is that the units are of a very small nature.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Delay in the setting up of gas-based fertiliser projects

*65. SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the reasons for inordinate delay in the setting up of two gas-based fertizer projects in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): The delay in the settng up of the gas-based fertiliser project in Rajasthan has been mainly due to the shifting of the original site at Sawai Madhopur to a new location at Gadepan in Kota District in order to conform to environmental guidelines. In the case of the Babrala project, the delay was caused by the promoters' proposals to change the product pattern and to merge M/s. Tara Fertilizers Ltd. with the parent company to improve the financial viability of the project.

Setting up of pests and disease control centres in Assam

*66. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of pests and diseases control centers which have been set up in Assam during the Seventh Five Year Plan period ; and

(b) the number and locations of such centres proposed to be set up in that state in 1989-90 ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) No Central Plant Protection Station, meant for surveillance and control of pests and diseases in agriculture crops, has been set up in Assam during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(b) No such new Centre is proposed to be set up during 1989-90.

Increase in the prices of essential commodities

*67. DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY :
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp increase in